

athletes from California's 41st District that will be representing the United States at the XXVII Olympic Summer Games in Sydney, Australia. Leah O'Brien-Amico from Diamond Bar and Shelia Douty from Chino will be competing on the U.S. Women's Softball Team; Heather Brown from Yorba Linda on the U.S. Women's Volleyball Team; Brian Dunseth from Upland on the U.S. Men's Soccer Team; and Young In Cheon from Diamond Bar will be competing in Taekwondo.

I commend these very special individuals for sacrificing, training and competing to make it to the top of their respective sports. Their hard work has lead to their selection on the U.S. Olympic Team and with it the notoriety of being our country's finest athletes. It is a great honor to compete for the United States in the world's most prestigious athletic contest. Their communities and their nation are very proud of them. Our support and best wishes go with each one of them as they journey to Sydney, Australia to compete in this year's Olympic Summer Games.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THOMAS SUDDER FOR HIS DEDICATED SERVICE AND MYRIAD CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FIELD OF JOURNALISM

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2000

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding individual from the state of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, on August 31, 2000, Thomas Suddes, chief legislative reporter for the Cleveland Plain Dealer, retired after more than 25 years of service in the field of journalism.

Born in Youngstown, OH, Tom's educational journey began at St. Dominic Elementary and Cardinal Mooney High School. In 1976, Tom completed his bachelor of arts degree in journalism at the Ohio State University. Now, Tom will leave the Cleveland Plain Dealer after 18 years to pursue his doctorate degree in mass communications at Ohio University's E.W. Scripps School of Journalism.

While attending the Ohio State University, Tom worked as statehouse reporter, columnist, editorial page editor, and editor-in-chief of the student-run Ohio State Lantern newspaper. After graduating from OSU, Tom wrote for the Chicago Sun-Times and the Des Moines Register and Tribune. He also served as editorial page editor with Foster's Daily Democrat of Dover, New Hampshire and assistant news editor with the Clarion-Ledger of Jackson, MS.

In 1982, Tom Suddes began working for the organization that would showcase his talents and allow his career to flourish, the Cleveland Plain Dealer. Tom has served in many positions with the Cleveland Plain Dealer over the last 18 years. From state desk reporter to Columbus bureau chief, from columnist to chief legislative reporter, Tom Suddes has brought honor, integrity, and fair reporting to each of his assignments.

Journalists like Tom Suddes are a credit to their profession. They diligently work to secure stories, which bring their readers the informa-

tion they so desire. Yet, above all, they preserve the trust and respect of the leaders and public officials they cover.

Mr. Speaker, my wife, Karen, and I have known Tom Suddes for many years and have the highest regard for his character and abilities as a journalist. While Karen and I will sorely miss his insight into Ohio politics and his coverage of state and national events, we know that our friendship will continue to flourish. At this time, I would ask my colleagues of the 106th Congress to stand and join me in paying special tribute to Thomas Suddes. His professionalism and service are a credit to the field of journalism. We wish him the very best in all of his future endeavors.

VENEZUELA'S PRESIDENT CHAVEZ

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2000

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I submit for my colleagues the August 16, 2000, Norfolk Daily News editorial entitled "Chavez travels: Venezuela's new president provides incentive to emphasize energy search." As the editorial correctly notes, Venezuela's new president, Hugo Chavez, is not winning friends here in America. At the request of the Speaker, this Member accompanied him on President Clinton's one-day trip to Colombia to view first hand the efforts within that country and its neighbors to reduce or eliminate the coca and poppy production, which are the basis of cocaine and heroin.

It is clear that Mr. Chavez considers himself, with a significant degree of grandiosity and self-assuredness, as the emerging political power in the region. This appears to have dangerous implications, and such actions by President Chavez, as noted in the editorial to include known belligerents to our national security, must be closely watched and, if necessary, responded to immediately.

Venezuela is the United States' leading supplier of imported crude and refined petroleum products. The United States accounts for 53 percent of Venezuela's exports. Venezuela's activities and cooperation within the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) under the Chavez Government was one factor in doubling oil prices.

Mr. Speaker, it is time we let Mr. Chavez know that we are concerned about his actions as a hemispheric neighbor.

[From the Norfolk Daily News, Aug. 16, 2000]

CHAVEZ TRAVELS—VENEZUELA'S NEW PRESIDENT PROVIDES INCENTIVE TO EMPHASIZE ENERGY SEARCH

Venezuela's new president, Hugo Chavez, was not winning friends among America's policymakers by cozying up to Cuban Dictator Fidel Castro or suggesting that Libya was a model of "participatory democracy." Now he has taken a step further in that direction by traveling to Iraq as part of a visit to OPEC nations that make up the cartel of oil producers.

It is the first visit of any foreign leader to Iraq since Saddam Hussein's forces invaded Kuwait 10 years ago, bringing on the Gulf War.

America cannot dictate who Chavez's friends can be, though it is cause for alarm that he embraces such firm enemies. Those

friendships, however, indicate to Americans that Venezuela's oil supplies, important to the United States, cannot be taken for granted.

That is no reason to waste time denouncing Chavez, but an incentive to re-emphasize the importance of developing new energy sources within the U.S.

VICE PRESIDENT GORE'S GULF WAR VOTE

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2000

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, former assistant Senate Republican Leader, Alan Simpson, has recalled for Americans the serious debate that went on in the Senate during the period leading up to the Gulf War. He tells us in a recent article, "The seriousness of the situation called for open, honest debate. No deal-making. No cajoling. No politics. Just an honest discussion, followed by an honest vote of conscience by each senator."

Mr. Speaker, Senator Simpson reports in the Las Vegas Review-Journal that the night before the floor debate, he and Senator Dole were sitting in the Republican cloakroom somberly contemplating the vote which could mean sending our troops to war. He recalls that suddenly Tennessee Senator AL GORE came in and asked, "How much time will you give me if I support the President?" After hearing that the Democrats had offered Senator GORE only seven minutes of camera time on the floor, the two Republican senators promised him twenty minutes—prime time, if possible.

Senator Simpson reports that later, after being told by GOP Senate Secretary Howard Greene that the time had not yet been finalized, Senator GORE exploded with the remark, "Damn it, Howard, if I don't get 20 minutes tomorrow, I'm going to vote the other way."

Senator Simpson says that it brings him no joy to recount the events leading up to the Gulf War, but feels he has to set the record straight because the Gore campaign is now proclaiming that the Vice President "broke with his own party to support the Gulf War." The former Senator from Nevada ruefully concludes that "it's much closer to the truth to say he broke for the cameras to support the Gulf War."

Mr. Speaker, I submit the article by Senator Simpson, entitled "Political Calculations and Gore's Gulf War Vote," which appeared in the Las Vegas Review-Journal for September 1, 2000 for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

POLITICAL CALCULATIONS AND GORE'S GULF WAR VOTE

Al Gore's running a new campaign ad across the country now, saying he is "fighting for us." But the true story of his Gulf War vote says he is usually fighting for Al. Here is the inside story of what happened.

The Gulf War vote was pretty serious business. I can't think of anyone who didn't have a lump in his or her throat as they weighed the situation—50,000 American troops were deployed; Saddam Hussein promising the "mother of all battles;" most "experts" predicting heavy American losses.

The choice was not an easy one. Senators with combat experience on both sides of the aisle were on both sides of the issue. Some